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## Letters to the editor

### The CIA in Nicaragua

Commander Zero (Eden Pastora), whom Henry Rosin cites in his July 12 letter, is widely regarded as a traitor in his own country. The question is whether he is being backed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. He may well have legitimate criticisms of the Sandinistas; the Sandinistas may well have been harsh in the conflict with the Miskitos. They have made mistakes.

Overall, however, as Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, states in his article on Central America in the July 18 New York Times Magazine, "Sandinist Nicaragua has been more respectful of human rights than any Central American republic except Costa Rica." He points out that the press is freer than in El Salvador or Guatemala, that there are six well-organized political parties that criticize the government, independent labor unions, and more than 60 percent private ownership of the economy.

Meanwhile the United States recently approved \$19 million of our public money to be spent by the CIA in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua, for paramilitary teams, among other things. It seems that our government is aiding or conducting a campaign of sabotage and terrorism against Nicaragua, which has a population of only 2 million.

No wonder it is building up its armed forces. As Ambassador White says, it seems only prudent.

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